



St Stephen with St John  
Westminster  
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# Celebration of the Feast of Christ the King

*Sunday next before Advent  
Christ the King*

**Welcome and Prayer of Preparation**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Processional Hymn**

HON 81a

1. Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King,  
Lord of heav'n, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown,  
th'eternal name.*

2. Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
Pow'r and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth: *(Refrain)*

3. Suff'ring servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
Death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified: *(Refrain)*

4. Priestly King, enthroned for ever  
high in heav'n above!  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love: *(Refrain)*

5. So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song: *(Refrain)*

**The Greeting**

*Three candles are lit by young people on the altar*

We light a light in the name of the Maker  
The King who lit the world  
and breathed the breath of life for us.

We light a light in the name of the Son  
The King who saved the world  
and stretched out his hand to us.

We light a light in the name of the Spirit,  
Who reigns and encompasses the world  
and blesses our souls with yearning.

**We light three lights for the Trinity of love:  
God about us, God beside us, God beneath us.**

*The president says*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

***Prayers of forgiveness***

Jesus says 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'.  
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*Young people lead the prayers of forgiveness*

Because the kingdom is yours,  
but we turn away from your just rule: we need you  
**Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on us.**

Because all power is yours,  
but we trust in our own power and strength: we need you  
**Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on us.**

Because the glory is yours,  
but we fall short of the glory of God: we need you  
**Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on us.**

Because we have your message to proclaim;  
Because we have your kingdom to build;  
Because there are so many in need of your love;  
Because we have your life to live, we need you  
**Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on us.**

***The Absolution***

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and give you the joy of his eternal kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Gloria**

Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit,  
Great Jehovah, Three in One!  
As it was, is now, and shall be  
while unending ages run. (tune 'St Helen')

## **The Collect for the Feast of Christ the King**

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn**

NEH 391

King of glory, King of peace,  
I will love thee;  
and that love may never cease,  
I will move thee.  
Thou hast granted my request,  
thou hast heard me;  
thou didst note my working breast,  
thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art  
I will sing thee,  
and the cream of all my heart  
I will bring thee.  
Though my sins against me cried,  
thou didst clear me;  
and alone, when they replied,  
thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,  
I will praise thee;  
in my heart, though not in heaven,  
I can raise thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort  
to enroll thee:  
e'en eternity's too short  
to extol thee.

### *Gospel Reading*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*A verse may be sung*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to ...  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

### **The Creed**

**We believe in God the Father,  
God Almighty, by whose plan  
earth and heaven sprang to being,  
all created things began.  
We believe in Christ the Saviour,  
Son of God in human frame,  
virgin-born, the child of Mary  
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,  
like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,  
heaven's king to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended  
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;  
in one church, below, above;  
saints of God in one communion,  
one in holiness and love.  
So by faith, our sins forgiven,  
Christ our Saviour, Lord and Friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.**

### ***Intercessions***

*Respond to the words 'Lord in your mercy' with*

**'Hear our prayer'**

### ***The Peace***

God has given the Spirit to dwell in your heart,  
we welcome you in to the fellowship of faith.

**We are the body of Christ.  
By one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.**

Endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.

Alleluia! The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you. Alleluia!**

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

### ***Preparation of the Table***

#### ***Offertory Hymn***

**HON 148**

- 1. From heav'n you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.**

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

2. **There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.**  
*(Refrain)*

3. **Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.**  
*(Refrain)*

4. **So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.**  
*(Refrain)*

### ***The Eucharistic Prayer***

*Children and young people are invited to gather around the altar during the Eucharistic prayer*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

**All say:** **Why is it right to give thanks and praise?**

**Children:** *Listen, and we will hear.*

Lord of all life, you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth,  
to discover and to cherish.  
You give us happy times and things to celebrate.  
In these we taste your kingdom,  
a feast for all your children.  
You made us all,  
each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels  
and sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,  
because, when we turned away,  
you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross  
and shows us the way to live.  
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

**All say: Why do we share this bread and wine?**

**Children:** *Listen, and we will hear.*

On the night before he died,  
when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.  
He gave thanks, broke it,  
and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
As you feed us with these gifts,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
and change us more and more  
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

**All say: How do we follow Jesus Christ?**

**Children:** *Listen, and we will hear.*

Help us, Father, to love one another,  
as we look forward to that day  
when suffering is ended,  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.



And now with Stephen and all your saints we give you thanks,  
because you anointed Jesus Christ,  
your only Son, as priest and King,  
Crowned with thorns, he offered his life upon the cross,  
that he might draw all people into that kingdom  
where he now reigns in glory. **Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

### ***Breaking of the Bread***

*The president breaks the consecrated bread*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

### ***Agnus Dei***

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

or

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us your peace.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*During the distribution the choir sing an Anthem*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people;  
that they, plenteously bringing forth  
the fruit of good works,  
may by you be plenteously rewarded;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood  
of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you our souls  
and bodies to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

**Amen.**

## **The Notices**

God the Father, who has given to his Son  
the name above every name,  
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. **Amen.**

God the Son, who is our great high priest  
passed into the heavens,  
plead for you at the right hand of the Father. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,  
make you faithful servants of Christ our King. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all, and those who you love,  
this day and for evermore. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Final Hymn**

**Cantor:** We're going to shine like the sun in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
**All:** shine like the sun in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
we're going to shine like the sun in the Kingdom of Heaven  
and no-one will ever be the same!

*And it's all in God's name, and it's all in God's name,  
yes it's all in God's name, that no-one will ever be the same!*

**Cantor:** We're going to learn from the poor in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
**All:** learn from the poor in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
we're going to learn from the poor in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
and no-one will ever be the same! *(Refrain)*

**Cantor:** We're going to walk with the weak in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
**All:** walk with the weak in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
we're going to walk with the weak in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
and no-one will ever be the same! *(Refrain)*

**Cantor:** We're going to drink new wine in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
**All:** drink new wine in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
we're going to drink new wine in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
and no-one will ever be the same! *(Refrain)*

**Cantor:** And it all starts now in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
**All:** it all starts now in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
and it all starts now in the Kingdom of Heaven,  
and no-one will ever be the same! *(Refrain)*

*The ministers and people depart*

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